DC

68

CATWOMAN

HOWARD
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DAWN OF DC

THE FINAL ACT OF THE *BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN* EPIC

BATMAN THE LONG HALLOWEEN

THE LAST HALLOWEEN

AN ALL-NEW 10-ISSUE MYSTERY CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF TIM SALE

WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB

JOINED EACH ISSUE BY
ONE OF COMICS' GREATEST ARTISTS
EDUARDO RISSO · KLAUS JANSON
MARK CHIARELLO · CLIFF CHIANG
BILL SIENKIEWICZ · ENRICO MARINI
DAVE JOHNSON · BECKY CLOONAN
CHRIS SAMNEE · MATTEO SCALERA

With **DAVE STEWART**
RICHARD STARKINGS

DC

Starting in
SEPTEMBER

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HELLO, FRIENDS OF CATWOMAN.

YOU MAY CALL ME HUSH.

I HAVE YOUR LEADER--DO NOT WORRY.

I AM A NEUROSURGEON. DR. THOMAS ELLIOT. LOOK UP MY CREDENTIALS, IF YOU'D LIKE.

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. AFTER ALL, I'VE WORKED ON THIS PATIENT BEFORE.

IT IS MY *HONOR* TO HAVE HER ON MY TABLE ONCE MORE TO GIVE HER THE SURGERY SHE SO DESPERATELY NEEDS.

A *SINGLE SLIVER* OF FOREIGN MATERIAL IN HER SKULL, THREATENING TO BREACH THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER. I'VE STANCHED THE BLEEDING, BUT WITHOUT CAREFUL REMOVAL, SHE WILL DIE.

I WANT NO *WAR* WITH YOU...

...BUT I MUST BE UNDISTURBED DURING THE PROCEDURE.

BOOM

DARIO, GET ME A CHANNEL TO TALK BACK TO HIM.

I DON'T LIKE ONE-WAY CONVERSATIONS.

GOOD TO GO.

HUSH?

THIS IS CATWOMAN. YOU PICKED A BAD TIME.

A CATWOMAN.

AND I DIDN'T PICK THE TIME.

YOUR LEADER'S BRAIN CHOSE TONIGHT TO *SWELL DANGEROUSLY.*

YOU SHOULD BE *GRATEFUL* I'M HERE.

DO...DO WE LET HIM WORK ON HER?

WHAT THE @#$% ELSE DO WE DO?!

YOU KNOW ANY OTHER NEUROSURGEONS THAT CAN GET OUT OF BED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO REMOVE AN *EMPOWERED METEOR SHARD?*

I CAN'T HAVE THE BAT, OR HIS FAMILY, OR *ANYONE ELSE* DISTURBING ME WHILE I DO THIS DELICATE WORK.

WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A *WAR* AT THE GOTHAM DOCKS.

I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE DOCKS TO BE LOOPED INTO YOUR PROTECTION. I'LL SEND YOU THE COORDINATES NOW.

THERE THEY ARE.

THIS GUY, HUSH?

BWIP

HE HAS A *HISTORY* OF PUTTING SELINA ON HIS TABLE FOR WEIRD REASONS.

I DON'T TRUST HIM.

BUT HE'S CLOSE BY--WE CAN STOP IT IF WE NEED TO.

FINE. CONNECT US TO HER EKG IF YOU CAN.

IF HER HEART STOPS--

"IT'LL BE MORE THAN *US* HE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT."

IT'S THE *WHITE GLOVE* WHO'S ATTACKING THE DOCKS.

VERONICA VICEROY AND HER CREW OF ARTIFACT HOARDERS.

THE CAT LURED HER THERE--

--BUT NOW SHE'S ON HER BACK AGAIN AND CAN'T HANDLE IT.

THE *WHITE* GLOVE. HAH.

I TANGLED WITH THE *BLACK* GLOVE.

THEY WERE FORMIDABLE.

I AM NOT CONCERNED WITH THESE MIMICS.

I HAVE GREATER PLANS.

I STILL WANT THE *FACE.*

AND I WANT EVERYTHING *ELSE.*

FACES... I CAN COME BY EASILY.

WHAT I WANT IS A PRISONER--BUT A *HEALTHY* ONE.

AND THAT BEGINS WITH--

--THE REMOVAL OF THE FOREIGN OBJECT.

AND OF SOME *SUPPLE SKIN TO EAT.* DO YOU *HEAR ME,* GATÚBELA?!

TRY TO BE A GENTLEMAN IN MY SURGICAL THEATER, *EDUARDO.*

THESE MAY BE THE LAST WORDS SHE EVER HEARS.

HER GRASP ON LIFE IS...

...WEAK, AND HAZY.

NNGH--

NO! THE FEATHER--

--I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...

--IT MEANS WE WEIGH IT AGAINST YOUR HEART, WHEN IT IS TIME.

WHEN YOU DIE.

BUT I'M NOT DEAD YET.

NO. BUT YOU ARE CLOSER THAN YOU HAVE EVER BEEN, KIT. THE SCALE IS READY TO RECEIVE YOU.

YOU MUST HOLD ON TO YOUR HEART AS LONG AS YOU CAN, BUT WHEN YOU CANNOT...

...HERE...

...IS WHERE IT SHALL REST.

I--I--

I'M SORRY... I'M NOT READY TO DIE.

I KNOW I HAD SO MANY CHANCES... BUT I'M NOT READY TO GO.

I WAS A FOOL, I WASTED THEM--

YOU WASTED NOTHING.

YOU DID GREAT THINGS WITH YOUR TIME.

AND I HAVE COME TO LOVE YOU. CATS DON'T LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.

WE PICK AND WE CHOOSE.

IT MUST BE EARNED, AND YOU HAVE EARNED IT.

I WON'T GUIDE YOU THIS TIME, IN THE DESERT OF THE DEAD.

I WILL LET YOU RUN FREE, TO FIND YOUR WAY.

YOU HAVE EARNED MY LOVE, AND MY LOVE IS FREEDOM TO CHOOSE YOUR PATH.

IF YOU WANT TO RETURN...

...FIND YOUR WAY HOME.

THEY'VE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE ON THE DOCKS, LIKE *RATS.*

MADAM VICEROY-- SEVERAL OF OUR ARTIFACTS SEEM TO BE *DRAINED* OF POWER.

WHAT? HOW DO WE RECHARGE THEM?

WE DON'T KNOW, MA'AM.

WELL FIGURE IT OUT, KASPAR!

THEY WON'T BE HIDDEN UNDER THERE FOREVER, AND IF THE BARRAGE LETS UP, THEY'LL GET OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN.

UNTIL CATWOMAN AND HER CREW ARE *DEAD--*

BOOOOM

TSSSSH

UNLOAD THE YACHTS AND MOVE TO THE SHORE!

PRESS THE ATTACK!

WHITE GLOVE, STANDARD COMBAT--

--KILL ON SIGHT!

DEMOLITIONS WERE A *SUCCESS*-- I'M OUT OF THE WATER.

THEY'RE HAVING TO FLEE THE SHIPS, BUT IT'S SENDING THEM *RIGHT* TO THE SHORE.

HOPEFULLY THEY'RE HITTING THAT HASIGAWA BLENDER--

ONE MOMENT.

GOTTA HANDLE THIS!

I'LL GET BACK TO YOU IN A MOMENT.

BRTT--T-T T-T-T-TT

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER. WE PROMISED HIM.

THOMAS ELLIOT. YOU'VE BEEN CALLING HIM *HUSH.*

YOU DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO--

YOU DON'T KNOW *ME* LIKE YOU THINK YOU DO, BATMAN.

WHAT SHE NEEDS IS TO LIVE, TONIGHT. HOW ARE YOUR BRAIN SURGERY SKILLS?

...JOURNEYMAN.

SHE NEEDS AN EXPERT.

HUSH IS AN *EXPERT. IF THAT'S EVEN REALLY HIM.* WHICH IS ITS OWN LONG STORY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, AS LONG AS SHE LIVES.

AND I'LL DO *ANYTHING IT TAKES--*

YOU THINK YOUR LOVE CAN SAVE HER?!

WHAP

NO!

BUT IT'S *WHY YOU NEED TO TRUST ME!*

I WON'T LET SELINA DIE UNDER HIS KNIFE!

TCH. MESSY.

YOU *MUST* BE RATTLED.

HE WON'T KNOW I'M THERE.

ONLY *SHE* WILL.

I WON'T TRY AND PROTECT HER. SHE JUST HAS TO *HEAR ME.*

IF HER HEART STOPS--

--YOU'LL WHAT?

KILL HIM?

pat pat pat pat pat

I DON'T--

--EVEN KNOW--

--WHERE I'M RUNNING.

MEW

DUCHESS!

I HOPE YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE BEING A FUZZY LITTLE PSYCHOPOMP...

...AND NOT BECAUSE ANYTHING HAS *HAPPENED* TO YOU.

...IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, I'D FIND A WAY TO HAUNT WHOEVER DID IT.

BRRRROW

DON'T RUN OFF, DUTCH!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE I KNOW!

UNLESS *YOU* KNOW SOMEONE HERE.

MRROW!

...OF COURSE YOU DO.

PRRR

THAT'S MY SWEET GIRL--I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HER.

IT GETS RATHER LONELY HERE.

YOU CAN'T KEEP HER.

...VALMONT.

I KNOW.

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT.

I KILLED YOU.

WERE WE...?

I MEAN... WE *WERE.*

...*WERE* WE A MISTAKE?

WHEN YOU LIVE LIKE WE DO, WHAT ISN'T?

WE HAD FUN.

YOU *DIED.*

...I KILLED YOU. I'M A KILLER.

I'M *DYING.* I'M ON MY WAY OUT. I ASSUME BASTET LET ME STOP OFF TO--SAY SOME GOODBYES.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN. THERE ARE SO MANY OTHERS I'VE LOVED AND LOST--WHY *YOU?*

OH, SELINA... THIS ISN'T THE LAND OF THE *DEAD.*

IT'S THE PATH *THERE.*

AND YOU KNOW ME-- I WON'T BE *RUSHED.*

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

SELINA?

WILL YOU COME BACK?

BASTET TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HIM...

PTAH.

GOD OF JUSTICE.

LOVER OF BASTET.

I CAN'T MAKE YOU, SELINA.

NO ONE EVER COULD.

THE SHADOWS... SO COOL ON MY SKIN...

HKCCOOOH

SHE CAN HEAR ME.

WHICH IS GOOD-- SHE *SHOULD* BE CONSCIOUS.

IT'S DANGEROUS TO OPERATE ON HER BRAIN WITHOUT HER BEING *RESPONSIVE.*

SHE'LL NEED TO WAKE AS *SOON* AS HE'S DONE.

DO I EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF TECH YOU'RE USING TO *BEAM A THOUGHT* INTO HER HEAD?

NOTHING LIKE THAT.

I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT SHE HAS AN *OLD METAL TOOTH FILLING.*

THE KIND THAT CAN PICK UP A *RADIO SIGNAL.*

WHHUH. WHY...?

STAY WITH ME, SELINA.

I'M WITH YOU.

I THINK I HAVE TO DO IT ON MY OWN.

I KNOW I'M NOT THE BEST TO PREACH THIS, BUT--

--NONE OF US HAVE TO DO IT ON OUR OWN. PLEASE.

--WHY?

IS IT BECAUSE I'M HERE WITH--

I'M SORRY YOU LOST SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU.

YOU DID IT TO SAVE ME, AND YOU WERE AFRAID I'D BE *ANGRY.*

NONE OF US NEED TO LOSE ANYONE ELSE, EVER AGAIN.

NONE OF US NEED TO LOSE *YOU,* SELINA.

THIS CITY CAN'T BEAR TO LOSE YOU.

WE'LL FIGHT ON WITHOUT YOU, BUT WE LOVE YOU.

I MUST LEAVE YOU SOON.

I KNOW. I'VE USED UP ALL MY CHANCES. BUT I'M GOING TO GO BACK.

YOU'LL HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

IT WILL TAKE *FAITH* TO BELIEVE THIS WAS REAL.

HOW COULD IT *NOT* BE--

--I FELT EVERY TIME I *DIED*--

EXTREME... CONCENTRATION...

THERE IS MUCH IN YOUR WORLD THAT IS STRANGE YET TRUE, BUT FAITH IS LESS COMMON.

IT WILL BE UP TO YOU TO BELIEVE IN MY WORD. MY SPIRIT.

AND WHETHER OR NOT I WILL COME TO SEE YOU, AT YOUR END.

OF *COURSE* I WILL--

bbbbzzzzbzz

EDUARDO, I HEAR A BUZZING.

NNH

BASTET?!

WHERE DID SHE GO--?!

GO, MA *TIGRESSE*.

SELINA? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

STAY QUIET.

TINK

YOU'RE DONE?

NOT YET, FLAMINGO. YOU'LL EAT WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH THE CRANIAL STITCHES.

JUST KEEP BREATHING. I CAN SEE YOU IN INFRARED. YOU'RE WARMING UP.

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP. I'M NOT RESCUING YOU. BUT I...

...I DON'T THINK I COULD DO THIS ONE EITHER.

I'M GOING TO COME DOWN AND DISTRACT FLAMINGO. I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THIS...

...BUT THAT'S WHEN YOU STRIKE.

COMO...?

VITALS ARE STABLE. I CALL IT A SUCCESS.

NOW FOR A BIT OF PAIN MEDICATION FOR HER--

I NEED YOU TO HEAR ME, CAT.

I MAY BE HOPING FOR A MIRACLE.

SSSs--

WHA NG

CATWOMAN-- WHAT A *REMARKABLE* RECOVERY.

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID. A *PRISONER? FACELESS?*

I SAVED YOUR *LIFE.*

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?

OR WAS IT A SNACK FOR FLAMINGO?

A *JAB* AT *BATMAN?!*

KRONCH

AUUGH! YOU--

--THE *SHARD,* IT MUST HAVE LINGERING *PROPERTIES--*

CAT--

STOP DOING THAT! ARE YOU USING MY FILLINGS?!

...VERY OLD TRICK. BUT I NEEDED IT TO BE SOMETHING ONLY YOU COULD HEAR--

BAT.

HE'S NOT DEAD--JUST HURT. I GOT-- ANGRY.

I STAY AWAY FROM *SO MUCH,* CAT.

IT'S SO HARD, BUT I ALWAYS LISTEN. BUT *HUSH*-- HE'S--

HE *DID* SAVE MY LIFE.

I THINK...TONIGHT, THIS CITY NEEDS EVERYONE IT CAN GET.

NO...

THE GCPD WILL MAKE IT WORSE. YOUR FRIENDS ARE WEARY, AND THEY DON'T TRUST ME, OR A LOT OF PEOPLE.

THEY JUST NEED YOU.

I'LL KEEP THE GCPD DISTRACTED--

--AND I'LL MAKE SURE TOMM-- HUSH.

GETS THE HELP HE NEEDS.

#@$%!

SLASH

SCANDAL! IT'S HER!

ESPADA! GET VICEROY--

OH, PLEASE.

YOU'RE ON THE *LOSING SIDE*--

SHNK

--SO I SWITCHED.

TELL TOMCAT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND GET BACK TO MAMA CAT'S PLACE.

HE *WON'T.*

@#$%, I'VE LOST *COUSINS* TONIGHT.

WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR APPROACH!

SURE. LET THE PEOPLE SEE WHAT CATWOMAN'S LITTLE *GANG* HAS BROUGHT ONTO THIS CITY.

OVER SOME *TRINKETS.*

ESPADA SAID SHE HEARD FROM FLAMINGO--YOUR GIRL'S ABOUT TO *DIE.*

THAT IS BAD NEWS-- FOR *YOU.*

SHE WAS ONE OF THE LAST THINGS KEEPING ME IN *LINE.*

THIS ENDS NOW!

AHHH!

HOOPS! PAOLA, YOU @#$%#@$%--

SHHHLLKK

NO!

VICEROY.

LEAVE NOW.

I'M NOT THREATENING YOU. I'M *WARNING* YOU--

THIS WAS ALL SUCH A STUPID *MISTAKE*--

FWOOOM

COWARD--

LET HER GO--!

I COULD--

WE ALL COULD. BUT WE'RE DONE TONIGHT.

WE'RE ALL DONE FIGHTING.

AHH-- @#$%!

HEY, HOOPS. YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY, WE'VE HAD WORSE.

BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE MYSELF CUZ OF THE HASIGAWA BLOCKADE. THAT OKAY?

YOU'RE GONNA SPEND YOUR VICTORY NIGHT WALKIN' ME TO THE HOSPITAL?

NOT DREDGIN' UP VICEROY'S ARTIFACTS?

NOT SLEEPIN' OFF YOUR HEAD WOUND?

NO.

"THEY'LL HANDLE THAT."

THIS IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.

THIS WOUND, IT #$%@#$^% HURTS, SELINA.

DO YOU EVER PRAY?

I'VE GOT YOU. AND SOMETIMES.

I THINK I SHOULD *START AGAIN.*

WHO DO YOU PRAY TO?

...I'LL TELL YOU WHEN WE'RE BOTH BLEEDING LESS.

BUT WHEN I DON'T HAVE A PRAYER IN MIND, I'VE ALWAYS JUST SAID THANKS TO THIS WHOLE CRAZY CITY.

LIKE THIS-- *THANK YOU, GOTHAM.*

FOR FEEDING ME, FOR LETTING ME STAY WARM, FOR LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WANTED IN OR OUT.

I'VE CHOSEN YOU, AND CATS DON'T CHOOSE IDLY. WE'RE LOYAL.

AND ONCE WE LOVE YOU, WE'LL LOVE YOU ALL OF OUR LIVES.

AMEN.

THANKS AGAIN FOR COMING WITH ME, CATWOMAN.

IT'S REALLY NOT A PROBLEM, HOOPS. I'D DO IT FOR ANY WOMAN.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

CATWOMAN NINE LIVES PART 10

TINI HOWARD STORY CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ART VERONICA GANDINI COLORS
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS DAVID NAKAYAMA COVER
RACHTA LIN & ROSE BESCH VARIANT COVERS NICOLA SCOTT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT VARIANT COVER
MARCIO TAKARA 1:25 VARIANT COVER TIRSO 1:50 VARIANT COVER
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END.

WITNESS THE BEGINNING OF CHAOS!

BATMAN

THE JOKER YEAR ONE

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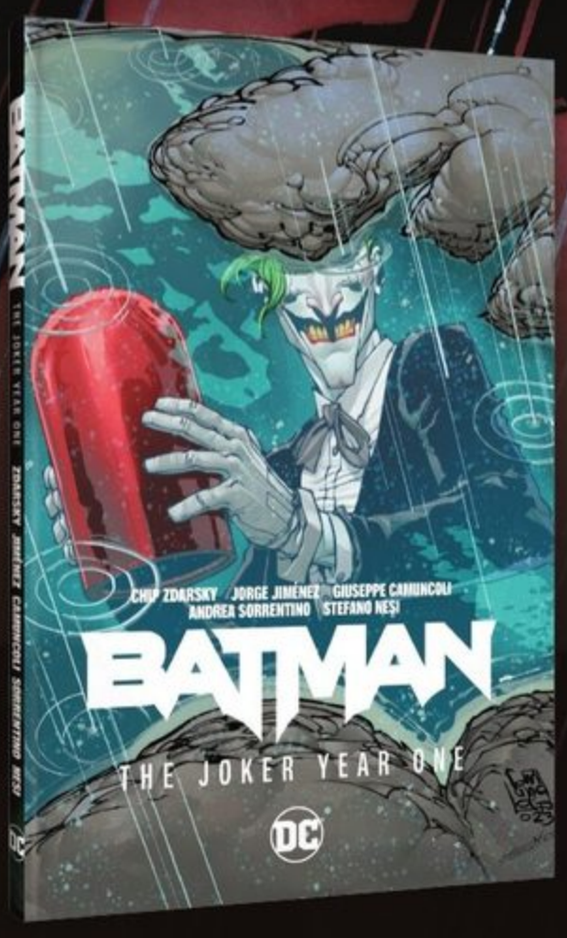
Discover the secret history of pop culture's greatest villain in this hardcover collection



SEPTEMBER

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

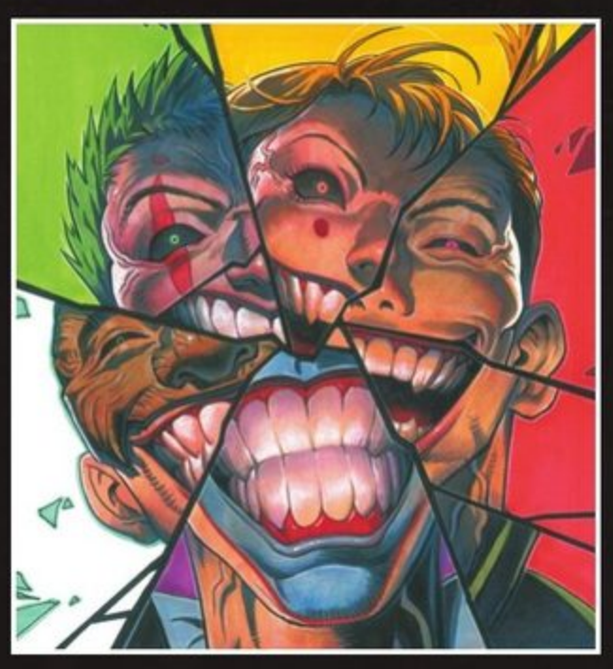
JOKER THE WORLD

This September, the Joker takes his unique brand of madness and mayhem on a world tour in *Joker: The World*, a 184-page hardcover anthology. It's the spiritual successor to *Batman: The World*, the bestselling, critically acclaimed graphic novel released in fall 2021.

This can't-miss graphic novel will feature Joker stories by creative teams representing 13 different countries, including renowned storytellers such as Geoff Johns, Satoshi Miyagawa, David Rubín, German Peralta, Alvaro Fong Varela, Jason Fabok, and others. With stories tailored to the authentic style, tone, and cultural sensibilities of different nations around the world, *Joker: The World* highlights how DC's most popular super-villain has inspired chaos on a global scale.

Uncover these unique stories celebrating the most compelling villain in popular culture.

DON'T MISS *JOKER: THE WORLD*, ON SALE THIS SEPTEMBER!



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